



THE BAR

THE MODERN COURTROOM AND ITS LAYOUT ARE DESCENDED FROM ANCIENT ENGLAND. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE CIRCUIT JUDGE WAS ALSO THE TAX COLLECTOR. YOU CAN IMAGINE THE DEGREE OF AFFECTION AFFORDED THAT PERSON. THE JUDGES WOULD HAVE THE "BAILIFFS" HOLD UP TREE TRUNKS TO KEEP THE LOCAL CITIZENS FROM CHARGING HIM. THAT PRACTICE IS STILL IN PLAY TODAY, IN SEMBLANCE, WITH THE BAR THAT SEPARATES THE JUDGE FROM THE AUDIENCE. WHEN AN ATTORNEY IS ADMITTED INTO THE BAR, HE/SHE MAY PASS FROM THE AUDIENCE SIDE TO THE SIDE OF THE BAR THAT HAS BUSINESS WITH THE COURT.

THE JUDGES

AN OFFICIAL OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH APPOINTED OR ELECTED TO HEAR AND DECIDE QUESTIONS OF LAW IN COURT CASES AND TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT FAIR PROCEDURES ARE USED. THE JUDGE SITS ON THE BENCH IN A BLACK ROBE.

THE JUDGES BOX

THE JURY BOX IS THE SEGREGATED AREA WHERE THE JURY SITS. THERE ARE ALWAYS AT LEAST 12 CHAIRS FOR THE JURORS AND USUALLY AT LEAST ONE OR TWO MORE FOR ALTERNATE JURORS. THE JURY BOX IS ALWAYS PLACED NEAREST TO THE WITNESS STAND SO THAT THE JURORS HAVE THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR AND SEE THE WITNESS WITH CLARITY.

THE PLAINTIFF/ PROSECUTOR

THE PLAINTIFF, OR THE PARTY WHO IS PROSECUTING THE CASE, IS THE PARTY WHO CARRIES THE BURDEN OF PROOF. THAT PARTY SITS AT THE COUNSEL TABLE IN FRONT OF THE "WELL" CLOSEST TO THE JURY BOX REGARDLESS OF WHICH SIDE THE JURY BOX IS LOCATED.

THE DEFENSE

THE DEFENDANT AND/OR HIS OR HER ATTORNEY SIT ON THE OTHER END OF THE COUNSEL TABLE AWAY FROM THE JURY.

COURT CLERK

COURT OFFICIAL, WHO KEEPS COURT RECORDS, MAINTAINS OFFICIAL FILES, ASSISTS THE PUBLIC AND ADMINISTERS THE OATH TO JURORS AND WITNESSES. THE COURTROOM CLERK SITS NEAR THE JUDGE.

COURT REPORTER

A PERSON WHO MAKES A WORD-FOR-WORD RECORD OF WHAT IS SAID IN COURT AND PRODUCES A TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS UPON REQUEST. THE COURT REPORTER SITS WHERE HE OR SHE CAN HEAR WHAT EVERYONE IS SAYING.

WITNESS STAND

WHERE THE ONE WHO TESTIFIES UNDER OATH TO WHAT S/HE HAS SEEN, HEARD, OR OTHERWISE OBSERVED SITS WHEN GIVING TESTIMONY.

JURY ROOM

A SEPARATE ROOM, OFF LIMITS TO ALL EXCEPT THE JURY, WHERE THEY MEET WHILE DELIBERATING THE FACTS OF THE CASE. THE JURY IS SOMETIMES EXCUSED TO THE JURY ROOM, BY THE JUDGE, WHEN THERE IS A QUESTION AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE PRESENTED IN THE TRIAL.

BAILIFF

A COURT OFFICIAL WHOSE DUTIES ARE TO KEEP ORDER IN THE COURTROOM AND ASSISTS THE JURY. THE BAILIFF WEARS A UNIFORM AND CARRIES A GUN.